Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 DHA-02 OIC-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OAS, HR

SUBJECT: OAS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE DEFERS REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY

REF: STATE 080113

1. COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH PREPARING AGENDA FOR VII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESUMED DEBATE APRIL 13 OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO INSCRIBE SPECIAL REPORTS ON URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY (SEE REFTEL). DEBATE WAS ALONG SAME LINES OF PRECEDING WEEK, WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN THE LEAD, SUPPORTED ON GROUNDS OF PRINCIPLE AND PROCEDURE BY AMBASSADORS OF THE U.S., JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO. VOTE ON GUATEMALA MOTION TO POSTPONE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS UNTIL ACTUAL TEXTS PRESENTED CARRIED 18-5 (VENEZUELA, U.S., TRINIDAD/TOBAGO, JAMAICA, BARBADOS) WITH NO ABSTENTIONS.

2. TOWARD CONCLUSION OF DEBATE, PARAGUAYAN CHARGE LLANES COMPLAINED THAT IAHRC HAD RETAINED WASHINGTON LAW FIRM OF ARNOLD AND PORTER TO WRITE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON HIS COUNTRY AND HE ASKED SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE CONTRACT SIGNED WITH A U.S. CITIZEN, ROBERT K. GOLDMAN, FOR THIS PURPOSE. CONTRACT DOCUMENT SHOWS

THAT GOLDMAN WAS RETAINED BY IAHRC TO WRITE A REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ENGLISH AT A COST OF 4,000 DOLLARS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION BY MAY 1. FYI: IAHRC SOURCE INFORMS US THAT GOLDMAN, A LAW PROFESSOR AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND NO LONGER WITH ARNOLD AND PORTER, HAS BEEN CONTRACTED (UNDER OAS PROCEDURES THAT PERMIT OUTSIDE HIRE) TO WRITE A SPECIAL REPORT NOT ON PARAGUAY BUT ON URUGUAY, WHERE GOLDMAN SPENT A YEAR AS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR. THE COMMISSION ITSELF VOTED TO RESORT TO THIS PROCEDURE AT ITS LAST SESSION BECAUSE OF THE EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY CASE LOAD ON ITS OWN LAWYERS . THEY ANTICIPATED CRITICISM BUT BELIEVE THE PROCEDURE IS DEFENSIBLE. THE REPORT WILL BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION PRIOR TO DELIVERY TO THE GOU. END FYI.

3. AFTER VOTE, AND WITHOUT HAVING INCLUDED TOPIC ON COMMITTEE AGENDA OR EVEN REQUESTING PERMISSION TO SPEAK, AMBASSADOR PITTY OF PANAMA READ LONG STATEMENT DENOUNCING US FOR RECENT CANAL ZONE INCIDENT IN WHICH GOP CITIZEN AND WIFE WERE ALLEGEDLY DETAINED AND ABUSED. PITTY ASKED THAT HIS STATEMENT AND TEXT OF CABLE EXCHANGE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT BE CIRCULATED AS OAS DOCUMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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